

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Final Office Action dated December 17, 2007. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8 to 12, 16, 20, and 26 have been amended for clarity. Claims 24, 25, 27 to 30, 32 to 36 and 43 to 45 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 31 stands previously cancelled. No new matter has been added by any of these amendments. Please charge deposit account number 02-1818 for any fees due in connection with this Response.

The Office Action rejected Claims 27 to 29, 34 to 36 and 43 to 45 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections. Nonetheless, to expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicant has cancelled Claims 27 to 29, 34 to 36 and 43 to 45 to place the present application in condition for formal allowance.

The Office Action rejected Claims 24 to 25, 27, 30, 34 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,077,745 to Gomez et al. ("Gomez"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections. Nonetheless, to expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicant has cancelled Claims 24 to 25, 27, 30, 34 and 43 to place the present application in condition for formal allowance.

The Office Action rejected Claims 28 to 29, 32 to 33, 35 to 36, and 44 to 45 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over issued U.S. Patent No. 7,077,745 to Gomez et al. ("Gomez"), and further in view of U.S. published Patent Application No. 2003/0100356 to Brown et al. ("Brown"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections. Nonetheless, to expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicant has cancelled Claims 28 to 29, 32 to 33, 35 to 36, and 44 to 45 to place the present application in condition for formal allowance.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLP

BY

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Adam H. Masia", is written over a horizontal line.

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Dated: February 11, 2008